IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 40 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A second aqueous ink for an ink jet recording apparatus used with a first aqueous ink, comprising a ~~containing at least one~~ dye as a coloring material, ~~the second aqueous ink comprising the same dye as at least one of the dyes in the first aqueous ink,~~

wherein the second aqueous ink and ~~has a same color tone as~~ the first aqueous ink contain at least one common dye, the second aqueous ink has a same color tone as ~~lower dye content than the dye content of~~ the first aqueous ink, ~~and a degree of fading of an image produced with~~ the second aqueous ink has a ~~is the same as or~~ lower dye content than the dye content of the first aqueous ink, and ~~than~~ a degree of fading of an image produced with the ~~first aqueous ink~~ second aqueous ink is the same as or lower than a degree of fading of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

2-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the color tone is magenta.

40. (Currently Amended) A second aqueous ink for an ink jet recording apparatus used with a first aqueous ink, comprising a ~~containing at least one~~ dye as a coloring

material, ~~the second aqueous ink comprising the same dye as at least one of the dyes in the first ink;~~

wherein the second aqueous ink and ~~has a same color tone as~~ the first aqueous ink contain at least one common dye, the second aqueous ink has a same color tone as ~~lower dye content than the dye content of~~ the first aqueous ink, ~~and an image produced with~~ the second aqueous ink has a lower dye content than the dye content of the first aqueous ink, and~~, when left under a condition that promotes fading, has~~ a residual rate of reflection density ~~that is equal to or greater than that~~ of an image produced with the second ~~first~~ aqueous ink is the same as or greater than a residual rate of reflection density of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

41. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to Claim 40, wherein the color tone is magenta.

42. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein each degree of the fading of the images produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

43. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 42, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux·hr.

44. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the color tone is cyan.

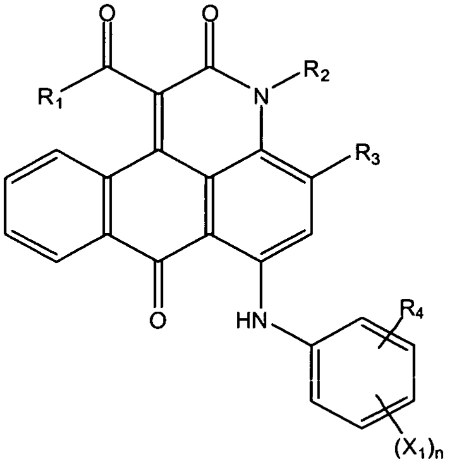
45. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 40, wherein each residual rate of the reflection density of the images produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80%.

46. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 45, wherein the condition includes irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux·hr.

47. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 40, wherein the color tone is cyan.

48. (Previously Presented) second aqueous ink according to claim 39, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

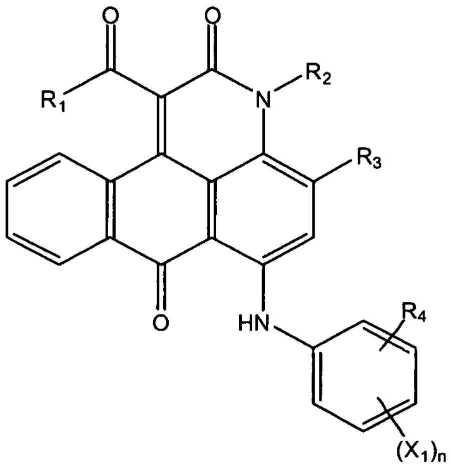
Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

49. (Previously Presented) A second aqueous ink according to claim 41, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

50. (Previously Presented) An ink set comprising a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having a same color tone, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and a degree of fading of an image produced with the second aqueous ink is the same as or lower than a degree of fading of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

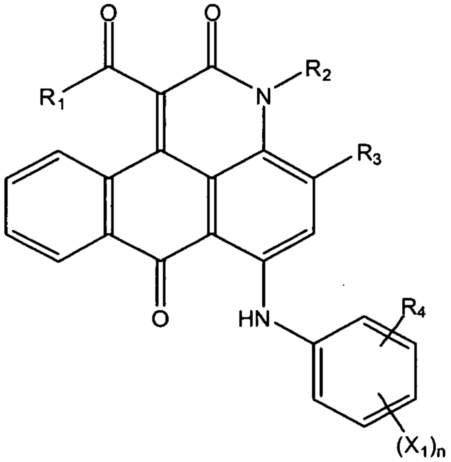
51. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 50, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

52. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 51, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

53. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 50, wherein the color tone is magenta.

54. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 53, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

55. (Previously Presented) An ink set comprising a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having a same color tone, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and an image produced with the second aqueous ink when it is left under a condition that promotes fading has a residual rate of reflection density that is equal to or greater than that of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

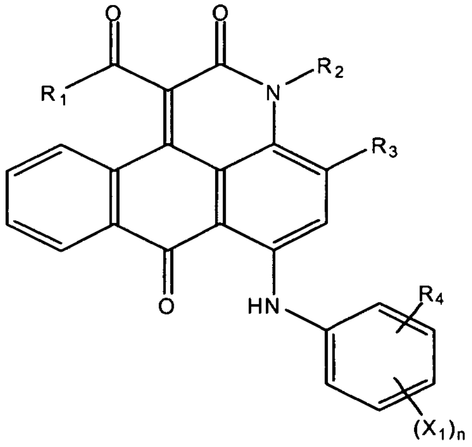
56. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 55, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

57. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 56, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

58. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 55, wherein the color tone is magenta.

59. (Previously Presented) An ink set according to claim 58, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

60. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:

ink storage portions storing a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having a same color tone respectively, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and a degree of fading of an image produced with the second aqueous ink is the same as or lower than a degree of fading of an image produced with the first aqueous ink; and

a head portion for ejecting the inks.

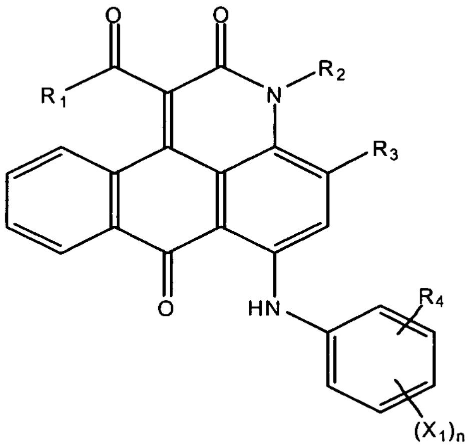
61. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 60, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% as residual rate of reflection density of the image.

62. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 61, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

63. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the color tone is magenta.

64. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

65. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:

ink storage portions storing a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having a same color tone respectively, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and an image produced with the second aqueous ink when it is left under a condition that promotes fading has a residual rate of reflection density that is equal to or greater than that of an image produced with the first aqueous ink; and

a head portion for ejecting the inks.

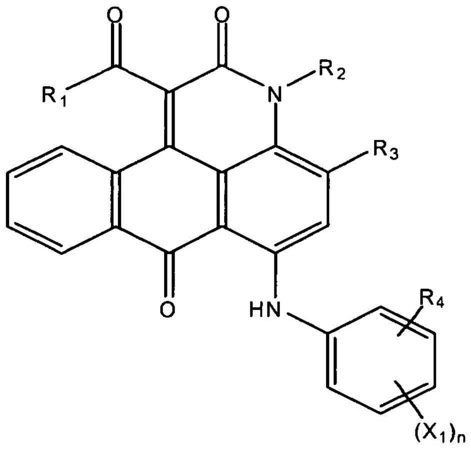
66. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 65, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

67. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

68. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the color tone is magenta.

69. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 68, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

70. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method comprising the step of applying a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having a same color tone to a recording medium, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one

common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and a degree of fading of an image produced with the second aqueous ink is the same as or lower than a degree of fading of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

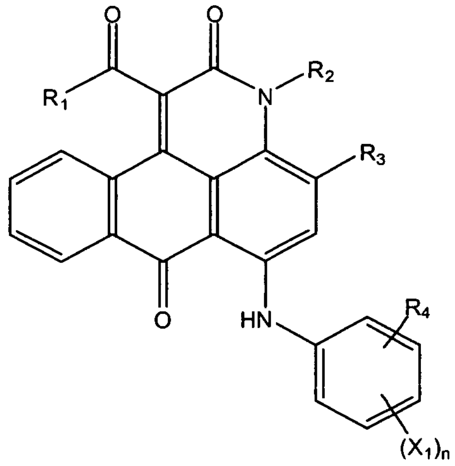
71. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 70, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

72. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 71, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

73. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 70, wherein the color tone is magenta.

74. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 73, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.

75. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method comprising the step of applying a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having the same color tone to a recording medium, wherein the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink contain at least one common dye as a coloring material, the second aqueous ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first aqueous ink, and an image produced with the second aqueous ink when it is left under a condition that promotes fading has a residual rate of

reflection density that is equal to or greater than that of an image produced with the first aqueous ink.

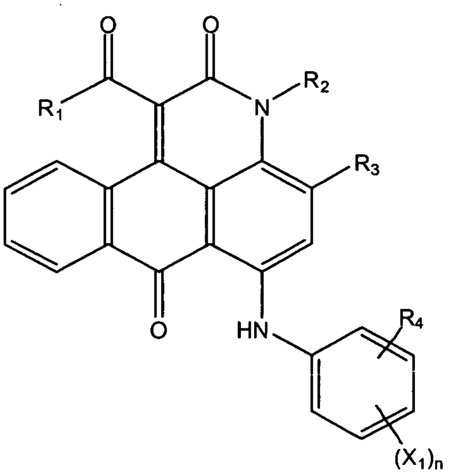
76. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 75, wherein each degree of the fading of the image produced with the first aqueous ink and the second aqueous ink is equal to or greater than 80% residual rate of reflection density of the image.

77. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 76, wherein the residual rate of reflection density of the image is obtained by irradiation with a xenon lamp at 6,000 klux • hr.

78. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 75, wherein the color tone is magenta.

79. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording method according to claim 78, wherein the second aqueous ink contains a dye represented by formula (I) as a sole coloring material:

Formula (I)



wherein R_1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; each of R_2 and R_4 is independently a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, and a halogen atom; X_1 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid group or a salt thereof; and n is 1 or 2.